

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, 6, 11, 12 and 14 without prejudice. Please replace claims 1, 2, 5 and 13 with the following substitute claims and add new claims 17 and 18 as follows:

B2 1. (Amended) An inactivated virus particle, as a reinforced immunogen, prepared from a culture of cells infected with virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses, wherein the process of preparation comprises a step of inactivation followed by a step of purification by physical means, wherein a neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with the virus particles is about twice to about 10 times the neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with inactivated virus particles prepared from virus cultured in mouse brain.

2. (Amended) A method for producing an inactivated virus particle, comprising culturing virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses in a cell line, inactivating the cell culture and then purifying the virus by physical means, wherein a neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with the virus particles is about twice to about 10 times the neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with inactivated virus particles prepared from virus cultured in mouse brain.

B3 5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the inactivating is conducted at a temperature in a range of about 4°C to about 10°C.

B4 13. (Amended) The inactivated virus particle of claim 1 wherein said cells are inactivated at a temperature in a range of about 4°C to about 10°C.

B5 17. (New) The inactivated virus particle of claim 1 wherein the appearance of the surface or envelope layer of the particle structure, based on electron microscopic analysis, is rough or fuzzy.

18. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the appearance of the surface or envelope layer of the particle structure, based on electron microscopic analysis, is rough or fuzzy.